
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

July 2004

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Senator Kohl lauds Wisconsin's Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan as a national model for other endangered species.

State's Karner Blue Program cited as model

The innovative program being used to restore the butterfly to the Wisconsin landscape was cited as a model for an ambitious nationwide effort aimed at restoring 15 endangered species in 20 states. U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wisconsin, joined with Environmental Defense, a national conservation organization, to announce the program at a May 11 press conference in Washington, D.C.

A program called "Back From the Brink" will use techniques pioneered in Wisconsin to wage campaigns aimed at saving other endangered creatures. Announcing his support for the project, Kohl said traditional regulatory programs have not been all that successful. He said he has been impressed with the success of Wisconsin's program in recruiting landowners to help protect butterfly habitat.

Senator Kohl also shared a congratulatory message with attendees at the eighth annual Karner Blue Butterfly Festival on July 10th. Thousands of people use this festival as an opportunity to learn about the butterfly's life cycle, its habitat and facts about the endangered species at the Karner Butterfly Learning Center and on the trolley tours of the Brockway Bauer Barrens. For more information about the Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan contact: David Lentz, HCP Implementation Coordinator in the Division of Forestry at (608) 261-6451 or David.Lentz@dnr.state.wi.us

Garlic mustard, an exotic species introduced by early European settlers, is a rapidly spreading woodland weed displacing native woodland wildflowers in Wisconsin. It is a major threat to the survival of Wisconsin's woodland flora and the wildlife that depend on it.

Forestry Council studies invasive species

Members of Wisconsin's Forestry Council, along with several members of the Governor's Invasive Species Council, participated in a June 16 field trip to Devil's Lake State Park and nearby private forestlands. The trip was organized by Fred Clark, Clark Forestry Inc. to demonstrate how invasive species impact forestry, and to set the stage for presenting a report from the Forestry Council's Invasive Species Task Group. The field trip featured a variety of invasive shrubs and vines that are currently limiting forest regeneration, and also highlighted concerns about garlic mustard, a plant that has spread rapidly at Devil's Lake over the past few years. Invasive, exotic insect concerns were also shared. The current status of gypsy moth here in Wisconsin was presented. The potential for Emerald Ash borer to invade Wisconsin's urban and forested ash trees was also discussed. For more information see <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fh/index.htm> or contact Eunice Padley at 608.261.6459 or Jane Cummings Carlson at 608.275.3273

A November 9-10 forestry conference will work on strategies to implement a statewide plan for the 16 million acres of forest in Wisconsin.

Governor's Conference on Forestry in November

A Governor's Conference on Forestry, scheduled for November 9-10 at Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, will bring together stakeholders to catalyze action on issues identified by the Statewide Forest Plan. The plan, to be published by the DNR Division of Forestry in September, is designed to engage diverse stakeholders through articulating a common vision about the sustainable management of forest resources in Wisconsin. Although the plan identifies over 50 issues, the conference will focus on: conservation of biodiversity; increasing threat of invasive exotic species; need for private forestry assistance; impact of changes in land use and forest ownership; maintaining Wisconsin's strong forest-based economy; importance of Wisconsin's urban forests; and conflicting recreational use of forests. The Governor's Office and the Wisconsin Council on Forestry are hosting this working conference to provide an opportunity for policymakers, conservation organizations, public officials, businesses and others to identify strategies for addressing these significant issues facing Wisconsin's forests. The conference will be a capstone event of the Year of Wisconsin Forestry.

For more information, visit:

http://wisconsinforestry.org/activities_content_governor_00.html

Heavy spring rains reduced gypsy moth population in eastern Wisconsin, but previous years of defoliation may leave trees vulnerable.

Gypsy moths leave trees vulnerable to other killers

Heavy rains this spring and a fungal disease associated with the cool, wet weather have reduced gypsy moth populations throughout eastern WI. Aerial surveys of eastern and central counties were completed and moderate defoliation was found on only 20 acres in Shawano County, down dramatically from nearly 65,000 acres of defoliation (in the eastern half of the state) recorded in 2003. Frequent heavy rains killed some of the newly hatched gypsy moth caterpillars by repeatedly knocking them from the trees they needed to feed on. This physical stress, combined with wet conditions that contributed to epidemics of a gypsy moth-killing fungus known as *Entomophaga maimaiga*, greatly reduced gypsy moth populations. The wet weather also slowed caterpillar development and prolonged the period where they could be infected with a fatal virus.

During the aerial surveys for defoliation, DNR mapped 23 sites (all in the Stephenson township of central Marinette County) affecting 2,600 acres where more than 50% of the oaks had died. Parts of this township were defoliated by gypsy moth in the summers of 2001, 2002 and 2003. Defoliation seldom kills a tree directly, but weakens it, leaving it vulnerable to attack by other insects and pathogens that may kill the tree within a few years. Trees that are healthy and vigorous usually survive one or two years of defoliation. Many of the oaks in the Stephenson area, however, are of a short-lived species and near the end of their natural life-span. The stress of old age, in combination with that of defoliation, drought, bark borers and root disease has led to the high levels of mortality seen in sites in Stephenson. For more information, contact DNR's Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator Andrea Diss at 608-264-9247 or Andrea.Diss@dnr.state.wi.us

Year of Wisconsin Forestry exhibit features art work by UW-Madison students using materials from the Forest Products Lab. See the show at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center through Labor Day.

Wood art furniture showcases Wisconsin forests

A collaborative art project is one of the unique celebrations of the 2004 "Year of Wisconsin Forestry." To promote an appreciation for the many values of our forests, Master of Fine Arts students, visiting artists, and faculty from the wood/furniture area of the UW-Madison Art Department created art pieces, which mimic the forest's ability to be both beautiful and functional. Most were fashioned using undervalued species and wood products from the Forest Products Laboratory. The pieces were exhibited at the Wisconsin Academy Gallery in Madison May 7-June 4 and then moved to the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center (NGLVC) where the show has been so popular that it has been extended through Labor Day weekend. Make plans to visit the exhibit at the NGLVC located 2.5 miles west of Ashland (phone number: 715-685-9983). The exhibit is a collaboration between the UW-Madison Art Department, the Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division, the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, and the Wisconsin Academy Gallery. Photos of the art pieces are in the exhibit handout posted here:

http://wisconsinforestry.org/activities_content_art_exhibit_20040507.html

Trees For Tomorrow in Eagle River offers a new forestry book for young children

New picture book introduces sustainable forestry

"In Grandpa's Woods" – the story of two young children and the discoveries they make while spending time in their grandparents woodlands – is a new children's picture book that describes how important the forest is to our everyday lives. By talking about how the forest is important for recreation, wildlife habitat, lumber and other uses, the book begins to introduce sustainable forestry to 4-7 year olds. The book was created in celebration of the Year of Wisconsin Forestry and is available for sale through Trees For Tomorrow (celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2004) at: <http://www.treesfortomorrow.com/books.htm>

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